

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Applicants' amendment to the Specification was objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 132 as allegedly introducing new matter into the disclosure; Claims 1-9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 1-9 and 15 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as set forth in the Office Action of April 26, 2004; i.e., as allegedly unpatentable over Linkletter (U.S. Pat. No. 4,087,319) as evidenced by Schmitt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,036,684), or Kankaanpää et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,059,482), or Hill (U.S. Pat. No. 3,855,057), or Cole et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,432,936); and Claims 1-3, 9 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as set forth in the Office Action of April 26, 2004; i.e., as allegedly anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Wedel (U.S. Pat. No. 5,037,509).

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his time on April 12, 2005, to discuss the Office Action and cited references, particularly Linkletter. As a result of that discussion and in response to the Office Action, Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 15 as indicated herein; thus, upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-9 and 15 will be pending of which Claims 1 and 15 are independent claims. Claims 10-14 and 16-23 have been previously withdrawn.

As required by the Office Action, Applicants have cancelled material in the Specification added in Applicants' previous Amendment directed to relative speeds of different devices. Applicants respectfully submit that the previous amendment to the Specification merely made explicit that which was inherent in the original disclosure and is therefore not new matter. See, e.g., Applicants' Specification at page 11, lines 13-19, and page 13, lines 7-10 and Figure 1. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that those skilled in the art will recognize that the draw D is a "negative draw" because the dryer 12 delivers the web 18 at a relatively high speed to the

creping station 14 where the web 18 is rapidly decelerated due to creping before being pulled across the draw D by the relatively faster moving first and second fabrics 20,30. Having cancelled the foregoing material merely for the sake of moving the application forward, Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 132 and reconsideration of the application.

Applicants have suitably amended Claims 1-9 and 15 to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and respectfully request removal of the rejection and reconsideration of Claims 1-9 and 15.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9 and 15 are patentable over Linkletter in combination with Schmitt et al., Kankaanpää et al., Hill or Cole et al. For example, Claim 1 as amended recites a system for transferring a continuously advancing tissue web from a dryer to a reel section comprising a first fabric defining a first moving conveyor with a bottom surface, the first fabric being positioned downstream from the dryer; a second fabric defining a second moving conveyor with a top surface, the first moving conveyor overlapping the second moving conveyor for a predetermined distance, the first and second moving conveyors being configured to receive a creped tissue web between the conveyors; and a vacuum device rotatably disposed against the first moving conveyor, the dryer and the vacuum device disposed relative to each other to form an open draw therebetween, the vacuum device configured to produce a suction to pull the creped tissue web to the bottom surface of the first fabric across the open draw for transferring the advancing tissue web into the predetermined distance where the first and second conveyors overlap. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination does not disclose each and every element of Claim 1.

The Office Action has conceded that Linkletter is silent with regard to using a vacuum to transfer a sheet to a first fabric. In further contrast to Claim 1, Linkletter is directed to blowing a web W from a Yankee dryer roll 7 to a bottom conveyor belt 14 using an air threading shower. See, e.g., Figure 1 and col. 2, ll. 58-67 of Linkletter. Thus, the cited reference teaches blowing the web W onto a top surface of the bottom belt 14 with the air threading shower before nipping the web W between a top surface of the bottom belt 14 and a bottom surface of a top belt 38, which is entirely different from Claim 1.

More particularly, as discussed with the Examiner, Linkletter as shown in FIG. 1, for instance, places its conveyor belt 14 below its web W. Thus, the web W is intended to be received on the top surface of the conveyor belt 14. As further discussed with the Examiner, those skilled in the art of moving conveyors belts and tissues will understand that the movement of the conveyor generates an airflow. However, the airflow generated by the Linkletter conveyor belt 14, being below its web W, coupled with its upward blowing air manifold 22, will undesirably blow the web W back toward the dryer 7.

In contrast to the Linkletter apparatus, Applicants' Claim 1 invention places a first moving conveyor above a creped tissue web, and the airflow generated by the first moving conveyor pulls the tissue web to a bottom surface of the first moving conveyor.

In view of the foregoing discussion and for at least the reasons stated in Applicants' previous Request for Reconsideration, Applicants respectfully submit that the secondary references Schmitt et al., Kankaanpää et al., Hill, or Cole et al. fail to remedy the deficiencies of Linkletter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 as amended is patentable over the cited references and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Applicants further respectfully request allowance of Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-9.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 as amended is patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed above and respectfully request that the rejection to Claim 15 be removed and its allowance indicated.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-3, 9 and 15 are not anticipated by and are patentable over Wedel. The cited reference is generally directed to a papermaking apparatus, which uses a granite press roll to press excess water from its paper web before maneuvering a lead-in roll toward the paper web to pick it up and transfer it to a dryer. This is completely different than the tissue system of Claim 1, for example, as recited above.

More particularly, as shown in Figures 1-4 of Wedel, the cited reference discloses a tail transfer apparatus 10 for threading a tail 24 of a paper web W while there is no draw between a press roll 16 and a lead-in roll 26, which are “disposed adjacent” each other. See, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 7, lines 1-2 of Wedel. The cited reference might subsequently form a draw D but only after the tail 24 is threaded; i.e., once the web W has been transferred past the lead-in roll 26 to a dryer cylinder 52 in order to widen the web W to “full width”. See, e.g., Figs. 4-9. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Wedel fails to anticipate Claim 1 and respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1, its allowance and the allowance of its dependent Claims 2-9.

For essentially the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to Claim 15 and indicate its allowance.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-9 and 15 are allowable over the cited references and that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter, or to resolve any remaining issues.

Please charge any fees required this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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